

15-Year Journey of Rotavirus Vaccine introduction and Coverage monitoring in Africa: Progress and Remaining Challenges

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Outline



Progress - Rotavirus vaccine introductions, hits and misses

Rotavirus vaccine coverage – Progress, barriers & gaps

What do we need to do - African call for action?

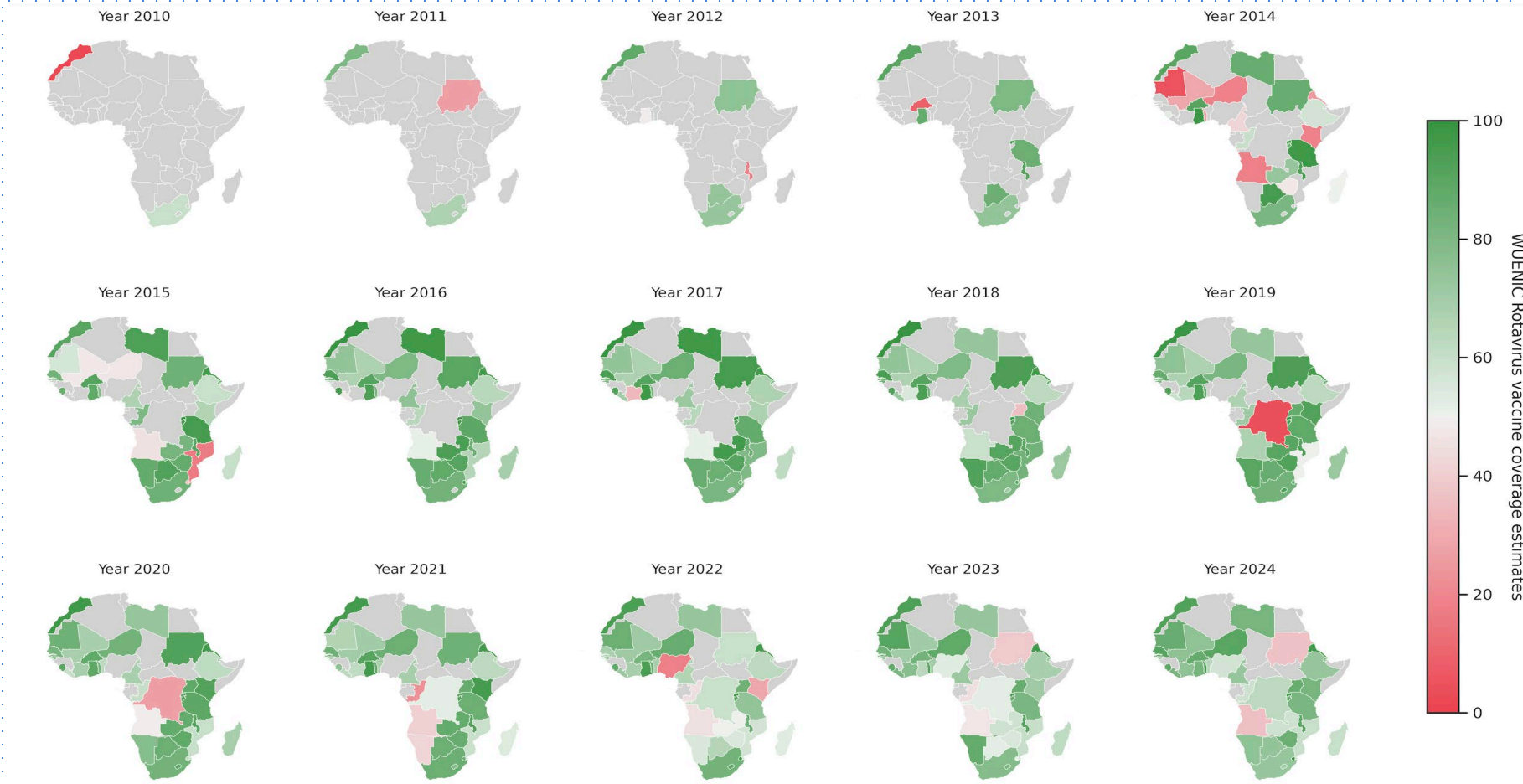
Progress of Rotavirus introduction in Africa –hits & misses

- Status of RV introduction in Africa: 45/54 (83%)
- Great concern is the remaining 9/54 (17%)
- Target was for all 54 countries in Africa to introduce RV vaccine?

Rotavirus Vaccine Coverage in Africa vs global: 2010-2024

- RV vaccine coverage in Africa has increased from **2%** (2010) to **63%** (2024)
- Global **6%** (2010) to **59%** (2024)
- Target > **90%**

Rotavirus Vaccine Coverage in Africa, 2010-2024



Rotavirus Vaccine coverage in Africa improving but still below set target in most countries?

- Coverage in Sudan was high (90%) but remained low 2022 (60%), 2023 (39%) & 2024 (37%)
- Coverage is low in high RV disease burden countries (Ethiopia (60% ->73%), Angola (36%), Nigeria (67%), DRC (63%))
- Other countries with very low coverage include Congo BZV (50%), MDG (60%), Benin (60%), Mozambique (60%),

Disparity of Rotavirus vaccine coverage in Africa by Region

- RV cov disparity in 5 Regions
- Cov in North & Central African countries lower & Northern countries lowest
- Central (55%), East (70%), North (25%), South (63%), West (65%); 2024 data

❑ Despite more than two decades of vaccine availability, coverage of pneumonia & Rotavirus diarrhea vaccines below target except Hib3 (European Region [93%] & SEARO [90%])

❑ Coverage of these three vaccines - low in Western Pacific (WPRO)

❑ Rotavirus vaccine coverage is very low in West Pacific [8%] and European Region (EURO) [42%], East Mediteranean (EMRO) [54%]

❑ Generally, regions with higher vaccine coverage reported declines in child pneumonia & Diarrhea deaths

Rotavirus, PCV and Hib vaccine Coverage by WHO Region, 2024

WHO Region	Rotavirus vaccine (RV3)	PCV3	Hib3
African (AFRO)	65	65	76
East Med (EMRO)	54	53	79
European (EURO)	42	86	93
Americas (PAHO)	75	79	86
South East (SEARO)	77	88	90
West Pacific (WPRO)	8	23	34
Global	59	67	78

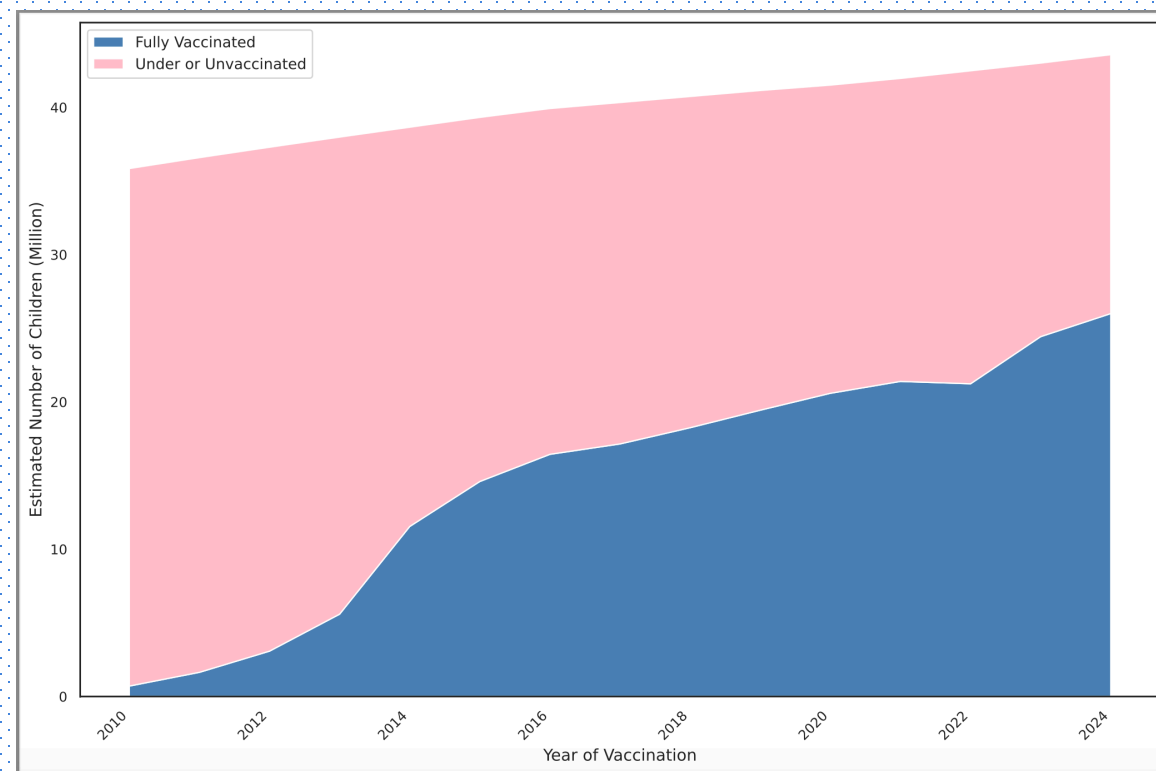
□ Steady increase in the number of RV Vaccine fully vaccinated children from 2010 to 2024

□ A decline in the estimated number of children fully vaccinated during 2020 and 2022 -> impact of COVID-19 pandemic

□ Overall, approx. 222 million children RV fully vaccinated by end of 2024

□ However, approx. 378 million eligible children remain un/under vaccinated in Africa by end of 2024

Estimated number of children Rotavirus Vaccine fully & unvaccinated in Africa, 2010-2024



Source: WHO/UNICEF data

Global RV supply shortages Vs Rotavirus Vaccine Switch

Country	Old Product	Date of initial introduction	Switch Date	Switch Product	Reason(s) for switch
Botswana	Rotarix	03-Jul-12	Sep-22	Rotasiil	Vaccine supply shortage
Burkina Faso	Rotateq	31-Oct-13	Jan-19	Rotasiil	Supply & cold chain
Cote d'Ivoire	Rotateq	01-Mar-17	May-19	Rotarix	Supply & cold chain
Ghana	Rotarix	26-Apr-12	Jan-20	Rotavac	Cost & GAVI graduation
Kenya	Rotarix	Jul-14	Nov-22	Rotavac	Supply & cold chain
Mali	Rotateq	14-Jan-14	Jan-20	RotaSIII	Supply & cold chain
Namibia	Rotarix	11-Nov-14	Feb-22	Rotasiil	High cost of Rotarix
Rwanda	Rotateq	25-May-12	Apr-17	Rotarix	Supply & cold chain
Tanzania	Rotarix	06-Dec-12	Oct-22	Rotavac	Supply shortage
The Gambia	Rotateq	14-Oct-13	Feb-17	Rotarix	Supply & cold chain
Zambia	Rotarix	26-Nov-16	Apr-23	Rotavac	Cost & GAVI graduation
Zimbabwe	Rotarix	01-May-14		Rotavac	Supply & cold chain
DRC	Rotasiil	Auguts 2019	??		

- **13 countries switched rotavirus vaccine due to global supply shortage, cold chain or high cost of vaccine**
- **Complex RV products & presentation affect coverage**

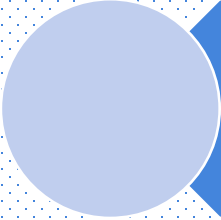
Summary of Rotavirus vaccine introduction status & coverage rates in Africa

- ❑ Established a robust African Rotavirus Surveillance network provided data to guide policy decision
- ❑ 45/54 (83%) countries in Africa have introduced rotavirus vaccines
- ❑ Big hit recent introductions; **Chad- RV**, PCV & Malaria vaccine (**Oct 2024**), **South Sudan - RV**, PCV & Malaria vaccine (**April 2025**), **Somalia - RV**, PCV & measles catch up campaign (**April 2025**)
- ❑ According to recent WHO/UNICEF data, 2024, mean rotavirus vaccine coverage in Africa, **63%** compared to **59%** global average, however, disparities exist & cov lower than the set target >90%
 - ❑ Rotavirus vaccine coverage ranged from **36%** (AGO) to **99%** (SYC),
- ❑ **9** countries reported RV coverage > **90%** (Morocco, Rwanda, Eritrea, Togo, Mauritius, Niger, Senegal, Eswatini, Seychelles) & **9 countries** (Mali, Angola, Congo BZV, Benin, Eth, DRC, Nigeria, Mad, CAE) - reported very low coverage

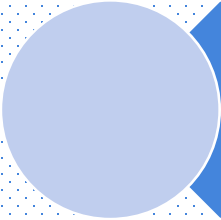
Proposed Critical Actions



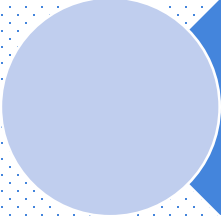
Address the supply disruptions that have resulted in forced switches or delayed introductions



Improve rotavirus vaccine coverage that remain below set target of >90%



Support 12 remaining African countries to introduce rotavirus vaccine in EPI



Advocate for reduction of RV vaccine price - cost range from \$1.5 to \$ 6 per dose - depends on product, formulation, country etc

Acknowledgements

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THANKS

